

STUDY HIGH PRICES

PARTY THAT CAN DEVISE PLAN TO REDUCE THEM WILL WIN IN NEXT ELECTION.

DO BELIEVE THE LEADERS

Democrats Say Reduced Tariff Will Solve Problem, Republicans Assert This Will Lower Wages Also—Progressives Have Other Ideas.

By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington.—Washington leaders of the three parties, Republican, Democratic and Progressive, say that the party which can present the best plan to bring down the high cost of living will be the party to be assured of victory the next time there is a chance for the people to vote on national issues. The leaders add that while the parties and the people are talking about the tariff, the trust, currency, battleships and other things of importance, they are thinking mainly on the price of beef, butter, eggs, clothes and machinery.

In a measure the Democrats seem to believe that the high cost of living can be reduced by reducing the tariff. Now just as naturally as rain falls out of an overburdened cloud, the Republicans answer that if the customs are cut prices will go down, but wages will go down with them and that men with less money will be no better off with low prices than they were with more money and high prices. The Progressives say that there is a way to solve the high cost of living and that it is not to be found through the tariff. The duties, they say, should be cut to a considerable degree, but not as much as the Democrats desire, and that this cut with other things yet to be definitely determined will reduce the cost of living without reducing the rate of wages.

All Studying the Problem.

The high cost of living is to be investigated by a non-partisan body, but whether it will reach any conclusions of value of course remains to be seen. The Democrats are going to study high prices in connection with legislation affecting the trusts, the tariff and the currency. They say that the trusts keep up the high cost of living and that the tariff is the mother of the trusts, and so they hope through trust legislation and tariff legislation to accomplish the thing which seemingly all people want to be accomplished.

The Progressive party, as has been noted before in these dispatches, has established a working bureau for the purpose of studying the problem of the high prices for food, raiment and rent. There are a good many men and women connected with the Progressive party who are at once economists and social service workers. These men and women have studied the economic problems in the hope that they might find some means of relieving the condition of the poor in the congested districts of the big cities where wages are comparatively small, families are large and prices are big.

Some of the Republicans say that the Progressives can go ahead along these lines of investigation if they choose to, but they will find that the lines will lead into the realm of supply and demand and natural causes generally. It is only a few of the Republicans who say this as a final answer. There are leaders in the party in Washington who maintain that the high cost of living is the real big problem of the day and that the Republican party can get back into power if it shall present a plan which seems adequate to its solving. For this reason Republican economists are to study economic conditions and to present them to the congressional leaders some time in the future, but in plenty of time to make them available in the congressional campaign one year from next fall.

Reunion of Parties Involved.

Republicans and Progressives are still discussing the matter of the possible coming together again into one united party. There is no seeming possibility at present that this can be accomplished, and the leaders of both sides apparently are of the opinion that some time must elapse before overtures can be made from either one side or the other with a view to securing harmony and reunion. There is some sort of a suggestion, however, from both Republicans and Progressives that there is a possibility of reunion which may be forced by the rank and file of the members of the old party and the new party, in case the Democratic party shall fall through the tariff, trust and currency legislation to do anything to bring down high prices without bringing down wages also. There seems to be a feeling among the Progressive and the Republican leaders that with a continuance of high prices a majority of the people of the north, south, east and west would get together in a party, call it Republican, Progressive or Radical, and would attempt through it to put some anti-high cost of living program into legislation form.

The Democratic leaders say that their method of dealing with big combinations of business, the tariff and other things will readjust economics and keep wages virtually as they are and put the cost of living on a reasonable basis. There is a wide difference of opinion between the parties represented here as to the means of cutting the cost of things. It seems likely that the country must wait until legislation as at present contemplated is put to the test.

MAY SELECT GORE

DEMOCRATS CONSIDER HEAD OF INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE.

IMPORTANT BODY OF SENATE

Deals Largely With Trust Matters—Oklahoman Is Ranked by Newlands and Clarke, Who May Be Passed Over.

By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington.—Washington dispatches have discussed thoroughly the subject of which school of Democratic thought is to control the next senate. It seems, as has been said in this correspondence before, that the Democrats who say they are of the more progressive school will be in the majority of their party in the senate and will control the committee assignments and other matters of party moment. The subject of seniority of service and the claim which it has to recognition in the matter of committee chairmanships also has been discussed and reasons have been given why Senator Tillman, who is the ranking Democrat on the committee on interstate commerce, may not be chosen by his Democratic colleagues to preside over that important body.

If Mr. Tillman prefers the chairmanship of the naval committee, on which he is at present the ranking member of the minority side, and foregoes all claim to the chairmanship of the committee on interstate commerce, who will be named as chairman of this committee which probably will have before it for consideration the most important legislation to be undertaken by the Democratic administration?

It still seems likely that Senator Simmons of North Carolina will be chairman of the committee on finance, which Mr. Aldrich of Rhode Island ruled so long and which recently has been ruled by Mr. Penrose of Pennsylvania. There are one or two other committee chairmanships which have been decided in advance, but the matter of the chairmanship of interstate commerce is still in abeyance.

Place of High Honor.

It was the interstate commerce committee of the senate which formulated the railroad rate legislation and which brought into being the interstate commerce commission. It deals largely with trust matters because the output of trusts enters into the commerce between the states. It is a committee of the first importance and its recommendations made to the senate as a whole can be a power for good or evil.

Again, who is to be the chairman of this committee? There is not a Democrat, nor a Republican for that matter, in the senate who would not feel honored to sit at the head of the interstate commerce table. Stephen B. Elkins of West Virginia, now dead, held the chief place in this committee when railroad rate legislation of the greatest importance was enacted. Mr. Elkins was not entirely in accord with all the provisions of that legislation, but the Republicans of the Roosevelt school succeeded in getting a report from the Elkins committee which was fairly to their liking, and what they did not like they changed by amendments.

When Mr. Taft proposed additional legislation for the regulation of commerce among the states a bill outlining his views and those of Mr. Wickensham and some other government officials was considered and approved by the senate committee on interstate commerce. There were Progressive-Republicans in the senate, however, who succeeded in overthrowing several of the provisions of the committee's report. The Democrats say that when they get control of the interstate commerce committee they will see to it in advance that the party members in the senate shall stand solidly behind the report when it comes to the floor.

Gore May Be Promoted.

If Mr. Tillman does not become chairman of this highly important committee there are three other Democrats now sitting on the minority side of the committee who will still hold office after March 4 when the minority side becomes the majority side. Thomas P. Gore, of Oklahoma, is a member of the committee. He is fairly well down on the list, but there is a feeling that the progressive Democrats may attempt to give Mr. Gore a promotion. The question is how far they will care to go in their rejection of the claims of seniority of service. Senator Newlands of Nevada and Senator Clarke of Arkansas rank Mr. Gore in the Democratic membership of the present interstate commerce committee.

The Democrats are going to consider long and deeply before they settle the question of the interstate commerce chairmanship. The present chairman of the committee is Moses E. Clapp, progressive-Republican, of Minnesota. Holding membership with him are two progressive Republicans, Albert B. Cummins of Iowa and Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin. If these three members of the present Republican majority on the committee retain their membership in the committee as minority representatives when the Democrats are in control, the feeling is that the progressive Democracy in attempting interstate commerce legislation may count upon the support of the progressive Republicans whose records in the senate show that they have been for advanced laws in all matters pertaining to traffic between the states.

NO SOCIAL DOINGS

INAUGURATION OF WOODROW WILSON WILL BE STRICTLY OFFICIAL AFFAIR.

EVEN A RECEPTION OMITTED

Parade, However, Will Be Unusually Big and Brilliant, Though That of Suffragists Probably Will Have More Human Interest.

By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington.—President-elect Wilson's decree that there shall be no inaugural ball puts the inauguration ceremonies on an almost strictly official basis. There is no chance now that there will be so much as a reception in the capitol in the evening, and it is virtually certain that there will be no reception at the White House, which is not large enough to accommodate the thousands of people who certainly would throng to the place to shake the hand of the incoming chief.

It must not be understood that the opposition to the reception in the capitol which developed in congress was at all a partisan affair. It was not based on a wish to belittle the inaugural affair, but it came from the belief that the new president would find himself a victim, rather than a hero, before midnight of March 4, if strenuous reception ceremonies were forced upon him after his hard work of speechmaking and parade-reviewing during the daylight hours.

No visitor who had intended to come to Washington for the inaugural ceremonies should feel inclined to stay away because there is to be no ball, and probably no reception. The chances are that this will be the scene of spectacular doings enough to make up for all that has been left out of the program. It must not be forgotten that there is to be a huge woman suffrage parade on March 3, and it is definitely known that if the weather is at all favorable this parade will overshadow in its human interest the display that the men are to get up the next day.

Weather Won't Stop Women.

The women are hoping for bright skies and dry pavements on March 3, but the promise of their militant leaders is that no matter what the weather, their followers will show the courage of their convictions, and will march in snow, sleet and rain just as they would in sunshine. It is understood that every woman who marches will be given a distinctive garment to wear, weather-proof and warm. In a way this will make the affair a "uniformly uniformed" one, but if the day be warm these garments will be thrown aside, and the women will appear each after her own manner of interpreting the fashions of the day.

It is probable that congress before long will take up the matter of the inaugurations of the future and make some kind of definite provision for them. There is always a row over whether the pension building shall be used for the inaugural ball, and this year it was the expense attached to the use of that building which made Mr. Wilson enter his veto of the ball plan.

Washington Memorial Hall.

Already there is in congress a bill looking to the erection in this city of a huge and beautiful marble building to be known as the George Washington Memorial. Congress is not going to appropriate money for this structure, but it already has granted a site upon which it may be erected. The George Washington Memorial hall project originated in Massachusetts, and Henry Cabot Lodge became its spokesman. The idea is for the people of each state to contribute a sum of money in order that the memorial may be entirely national. The movement has grown and it seems likely that before long something will become of it.

The site which congress has set aside for the memorial building is that once occupied by the old Pennsylvania railroad station just south of Pennsylvania avenue near Sixth street. The proposal is to use the building for inaugural balls, for functions of patriotic societies and for any other use which seems suitable.

With the ball eliminated and with the reception also "done for," the probable attempt of the committee in charge of the inauguration will be to make the parade unusually great and unusually brilliant. Definite orders already have been issued for troops to come here from the outlying government posts, and some of the states already have signified their intention to send organizations of the National Guard. It is known that 1,000 Princeton graduates and several hundreds of under graduates will appear in the parade probably in academic gowns and mortar boards.

Servants All Honest.

Albert Groves, who lives somewhere out beyond stop-umpty-six in the summer time, but who moves back to Euclid avenue when the leaves begin to fall, relates that he had an English guest at his country place this year. The guest was something of a nifty dresser, and he was so British that an Irish terrier bit him before he'd been in the house five minutes. Mr. Groves showed him to his room that night.

"Shall I leave me boots outside the door?" inquired the Englishman, as he was retiring. "Sure, if you want to," replied Groves heartily. "The servants are honest and nobody'll touch 'em."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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